

Tape 015

Rosalie Burton

Interviewed by Diedra Northern

Date: January 11, 1978

This is an interview with Mrs. Rosalie Burton at 373 North 2500 West, Vernal, Utah on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 1978. This is Diedra Northern of the Golden Age Center, Vernal, Utah.

Rosalie Burton (Rosalie): Well, I'll start where I was born. Rosalie Miles DeJournette, born to Charles and Addie Watson Miles, January the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1896, at Hutcheson, Bourbon County, Kentucky. We moved to Colorado by train to Walton, Colorado, just out of Denver, Colorado, then went to Uncle Wilt Miles' cattle ranch not far from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, about 1904. Then moved to Brown's Park in 1905. We took two wagons and teams, horses, one saddle horse, we called him Sulphur, Father, Mother and five children, with a man that helped us get there, Gordon Wilson.

We settled on a homestead in Brown's Park. Went to school at Ladore, Colorado, in Routt County, which later changed to Moffat County. My mother was postmistress for several years. She was on the school board for several years, which helped us get the new schoolhouse. At first it was a dirt, log, one-roomed school. Now that's where I went to school at first. The teacher taught straight through the first grade to the eight grade. One teacher taught; can you imagine that?

I wanted so badly to finish school. Dad thought he needed us to work more than schooling. I often realize how much in my lifetime I needed an education. I look back over the years and know all the mistakes I made with myself and my children. I regret [it] so badly. I'd liked to have managed differently, during all those many years.

Diedra Northern (DN): Well, you did fine.

Rosalie: I was married in 1914 to my first husband, in 1914. Then I had Earl, that's the oldest boy, and then I had a little girl, which I lost. She was seven years old and going to school.

DN: What did she die of?

Rosalie: Now let's see, then Richard came along. That's the boy that helps me now. He came up this morning and shoveled my snow. Let's see, on June 19, 1914, when I married Thomas Ford DeJournette, we were married in Vernal, I was 18. My first home was in Brown's Park, on the Park Livestock Ranch. Ford had an interest in it at that time. They ran both cattle and sheep. He always had pretty horses; he really loved horses.

The first nice gift he gave me was a silver, mounted saddle, made by Newton Brothers, Also a gold bracelet and a pair of blue silk gloves, for my first Christmas. I still have the bracelet which is over 50 years old. It's beautiful. It's about that thick, just completely gold, gold bracelet. My daughter, I gave it to my daughter to keep.

On a brisk, chilly morning, on March the 27<sup>th</sup>, 1915, Thomas Earl DeJournette made his entrance into this big wide world. Annie Thompson and Dr. Martin took care of me during my

confinement. Annie Thompson's husband was known as Longhorn Thompson. He was associated with the Brown's Park outlaws. My second baby, Faye Lucille DeJournette, was born October 7, 1917. I was confined at Mrs. Joe Burton's home, who was the sister of Mrs. Mike Flynn. Their maiden name was Green. My third child was Neil Ford DeJournette, born October the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1919, died November 27<sup>th</sup> with pneumonia, he was only two months old, that little guy.

DN: Did they have a lot of diseases and pneumonia?

Rosalie: Yes, I had a little girl die with... Dr. Franke took care of her. He didn't know what it was. Those days we didn't have a hospital or anything, you know. I can't recall. He took care of her at home she had spinal meningitis. That's what he called it. She was a beautiful little child. Dark haired, heavy set, pretty little thing. I've got pictures here somewhere.

DN: Well, tell me a little bit about Longhorn Thompson.

Rosalie: Let's see, I guess that's all. He was married to Auntie Thompson, that was his wife, Auntie Thompson, and she had two children: Lymon, who married a Weeks girl, Stella Weeks; there was Anne Mae, and I can't remember just exactly who she married. Oh, she married a man from the reservation somewhere. His name was Fawcett. 'Course they're all passed away now. Auntie Thompson, helped me so much when I needed her. I lived in the mountains over here, you know, and I was just so young. She helped me so much with my family.

Now I don't know what else. Do you want bit on Brown's Park? I want to pay my respects to the Bassett Family for the way they treated my folks. They were very good to us. I can remember the sacks of apples, the meat, and many other things they did for us, when we had such hard winters. I remember what expert horsemen Aunt Josie and Aunt Ann were. Aunt Josie had beautiful long red hair. I went to school with both of her sons: Crawford and Chick McKnight. Aunt Ann, I used to go with her on the mountain and stay with her. She camped out there and she herded cattle. I want to tell you what Aunt Ann did to me one day.

I remember our neighbors and friends in Brown's Park, the happy times, although these are things that made me sad during my girlhood. I think back over the years and the memories. One thing stands out from the rest: Aunt Ann Bernard, known as Ann Bassett Bernard, I remember very clearly our camp on Douglas Mountain when we had the big herd, that we herded in the summer and Aunt Ann was a beautiful woman, and that's true. Always wore gloves and kept her face covered from sunburning. She was a beautiful lady, and she had beautiful long hair. She had very pretty clothes and very stylish; she paid me for helping her. As I remember it was \$14. It seemed like such a large sum. I remember it, making out the order for my school clothes. I remember that chilly Christmas at her party. She curled my hair pretty and I think I was so proud of my curls. I had long, straight, black hair, can you imagine! (Laughter)

I wouldn't talk to the other kids. I'll never forget when the Indians went to the warpath. [But] I want to finish this little story about my hair. We went to a Christmas party, and I was so proud of my curls, and Aunt Ann's husband had bought me a pair of little white shoes and cotton stockings, and I was so proud and I wouldn't talk to my brother and my sisters. My mother stepped in and she said that's enough! You come home with me now. You can't stay with Aunt Ann any more if that's the way you're going to act when you get home with your brother and

sisters. So that ended that.

I'll never forget when the Indians went on the warpath. They stopped at our camp. Now, I was still with Aunt Ann, see. Stopped at our camp. We had a barbecue feast. One ol' buck liked me, so Aunt Ann told him he could have me. It almost scared me to death. I guess to this day I'm still afraid of Indians.

DN: Tell me a little bit about Ann's husband, Hy Bernard.

Rosalie: He was a wonderful man.

DN: Was he?

Rosalie: Yes, he was. I guess at one time he was friends with the outlaws, but he was so good to me, he was so good to children. He was a wonderful man. He wasn't associated with the outlaws at that time, but after we moved down there, the outlaws had gone. They weren't in the Brown's Park then. We never seen an outlaw, heard of 'em 'course and afraid there would be an outlaw under ever' bush. We was just little girls you know. I was eight years old.

DN: The outlaws were quite well liked, though, weren't they, by the people?

Rosalie: Yes, they certainly were and you could read books. Now, let's see, I read that one. Let's go back here. Uncle Hy, we called him Uncle Hy all the time.

These are later. Let's see, now here's my fourth child, was born March 11<sup>th</sup>—now that's the boy here this morning—1921, whose name was Richard Ford DeJournette. He was born at home. Mrs. Joe Camell and Dr. Green assisted me. Sadie Camell was Joe Tolliver's daughter. Now, there's some more outlaw for ya, that Joe Tolliver's another name, which made Brown's Park famous.

Dick was a cute little boy. He had a mischievous gleam to his eye and for some reason has never left. He went to school with Sadie's boy's, Ray, and Brent Camell. These are all Vernal people. These Camell's, you know them I guess, this Brent Camell?

In 1919, we moved our sheep from Brown's Park to Vernal. We bought a ranch on Brush Creek, where we wintered them. We brought about 6,000 head of ewes when we came at that time. There was no Taylor Grazing, we had open range. Our spring permit was on Diamond Mountain, where we homesteaded. Our summer range was Meadow Lane Park.

As I think back over these years, I recall my happy times and hard work. I can see two small boys under big cowboy hats riding their ponies. I remember driving a team and wagon with supplies and pack outfits. At first there was no roads, later we had trucking roads. In those days a good horse was pretty important. Let's see, all this is not interesting to you.

DN: Oh, that's fine.

Rosalie: Well, here's when my last baby girl came. Good fortune happened my way, and a baby girl came to our house on a crisp morning, on October 28, 1932. We named her JoAnn Lee DeJournette. She had lots of dark hair and was a very cute baby. Mrs. Sadie Camell and Dr.

Franke took care of me. JoAnn was born at home. What a blessing for this little girl, as we had lost our little Faye, at seven. JoAnn now has four little girls. The years have gone so fast.

Back to Brown's Park, well let's see. There were four girls in my family, one brother, Bob, which through all the years, I could always count on him when I needed help. With four girls to boss him, he held his own with us. After Ford and I were married, Bob came to live with us, that's my brother, which left Mary alone. Well, let's see, wait a minute, we don't want all that ol' stuff. I finished off here after Orson passed away. I don't know where the rest of it is. What else do you want to know?

DN: Well, can you remember the Depression years?

Rosalie: Oh, yes.

DN: What were they like?

Rosalie: Well, they didn't strike us so badly. We did our business to Ashton's, with Rae and Eva Ashton. That's these boys' mother and father. They carried us over the years. The bank and Mr. Meagher carried us. Each fall when we'd ship our lambs, we'd pay our bills out and Rae Ashton remarked later, before he passed away, that he never had better customers than Ford DeJournette and me. I went into the bank to borrow some money through Mr. Meagher and all he said to me was, "Mrs. DeJournette, go easy on the pencil. [Don't] write too many checks." That's how we got through that bad Depression. We all worked. I drove camp, moved camp, for them.

Earl went in 1940, '40 what? Forty-one or '42, Earl went to the service, the oldest boy, and he spent six or seven years in the army. That left this boy that was here this morning and myself and Mr. DeJournette to run our sheep. We couldn't hire anybody, we didn't have any money to hire anyone, but we made it and we came out just fine.

DN: What was the Taylor Grazing Act?

Rosalie: When was it? Oh let's see. I don't know whether I'd remember that or not right now.

DN: Did that hurt your sheep business any?

Rosalie: Oh yes, yes. You see, before that we had open range. We could just go wherever we pleased and then later, when they put that Taylor Grazing in, they fenced off everybody's... We had to follow the land with our sheep. Before, when we could just turn them loose and let them feed, when we was leavin' our spring range to go up to our summer range up on Elk Park, we could just turn them loose and take our time. But after they passed that Taylor Grazing, then we had to herd 'em through these fences, 'cause everybody that had ground up there fenced off their property.

DN: Did it hurt most of the sheep and cattle men, or did it help them?

Rosalie: Well, I don't know. I think that it may have helped some. I don't know just exactly. I don't remember too much about that. I didn't take care of any of that paperwork or anything. Mr.

DeJournette took care of all that.

DN: When you had your sheep in Brown's Park, were there any hard feeling between the sheep and cattle men?

Rosalie: Yes, but it didn't affect us. It didn't bother us at all. We were all over in Brown's Park with our sheep and we had open range at that time. We didn't live out toward Colorado, where they had that trouble. Now that's where they had most of their trouble was toward Colorado. We lived over in Brown's Park, but we was in Utah and we didn't have too much trouble. We lived on a beautiful ranch over there called Willow Creek, and I tried so hard to get Mr. DeJournette to buy it. We could have bought it at that time, you know, for almost a song those days, and well you know, he didn't want to buy, he wanted to come back to Vernal. So, I came to Vernal and I wanted to stay over there. I just loved it. I just loved it over in Brown's Park. I still do. I go back whenever I get a chance.

DN: Minnie mentioned Matt Warner when I talked with her. Did you remember him, too?

Rosalie: Who?

DN: Matt Warner.

Rosalie: No, I don't know as I... I don't think I've ever seen him. I don't think so. But they say he was a wonderful man. Later on, you know, he was one of the outlaws and he went down here to some place in the southern part of the state and was law officer there for a while.

DN: Minnie spoke real high of him.

Rosalie: Oh, yes, she would. I remember Minnie very well, she was such a pretty woman. She rode beautifully, a horse, beautifully. Those days, we didn't wear overalls or pants or anything like that. Just imagine! Mother would have had a fit if we'd had pants on. Minnie had divided skirts. She had the prettiest little divided skirts made. Have you seen one of those?

DN: Yes.

Rosalie: The little riding skirts, divided. Well, you know what a coulet, coulets are?

DN: Culottes?

Rosalie: Is that what you called them? Well, that's on the same order and she had the prettiest clothes, I always thought. 'Course we couldn't afford things like that, but I always just loved her pretty little skirts, and she use to ride a horse beautiful and she'd come down to our house. My mother was postmistress at that time and she'd come down and help my mother. Oh, a little something would happen and my mother would need a little help in adding up, whatever, it was in the post office, Minnie would come down and help mother.

DN: What was running the post office like? Can you remember?

Rosalie: In the home, it was right in our home, and my father made a little place, a little place where she could sit, you know, and a hold to poke your name in. She was postmistress there for a good many years. Then she was on the school board. My mother was an intelligent woman had she had an opportunity, but out there in that country you didn't have much chance you know. Anyway, she had the post office out there for a long time.

She was on the school board, and that's how, through her help, we got our new schoolhouse, which is still standing over there. The schoolhouse when we first went to school, we had one school down on Vermillion Creek. I tell you who could tell you a lot about this, that's Ralph Chew. I went to school with Ralph Chew. Do you know the Chews?

DN: Un, huh. I know Ralph. He comes down to the Center.

Rosalie: Oh, yeah. Ralph [was] over at dinner the other day down there. Ralph and I got to talkin' about it. He said, Rosalie, do you remember this and you remember that, and I said, "Oh yeah." I went to school with him, you know, and we get together, he could tell you a lot of things I've forgotten. He's not as old as I was, Rial's age. Rial Chew, that's a bother, he's past away. What was I talkin' about?

DN: About the schoolhouse, getting a new schoolhouse.

Rosalie: Just a one little room down on the creek. Dirt roof and dirt floor. Later, they put in some ol' timber down there on the floor. Then my mother on the school board, we finally got a new schoolhouse up on the hill. Beautiful. We just thought it was great, you know, and big dance floor in there and everything. Oh, it was wonderful, and it still stands over there in Brown's Park.

DN: Did you have a lot of dances?

Rosalie: Oh yes, oh yes, beautiful parties. All kinds of school parties and Christmas and holidays and things like that. We enjoyed them very much. All the Chews were there. I went to school with all of them, all the ones at school age.

At one time, one teacher taught all of us—I told you from first grade to the eight—that's quite a bit to teach. I have my diploma, kept it all these years. Also, I won a scholarship for being the best writer, to write. I held that little paper. I have all those. I saved 'em for my daughter.

One time there was an ol' man over there on the school board with my mother. His name was Harry Hoyt. We all just loved him, and you've heard of the Hoyts and the outlaws over there. He told us the one that got the best grade for that school year would get a gift, would get a present. Well, I was the girl that got it. I got a beautiful doll, oh, great big, beautiful doll. Beautiful thing. And Aunt Ann Bassett dressed it for me. I'll never forget it. Just dressed it so beautiful. One day we were living in this new home that dad bought and there was an upstairs to it. I heard a commotion goin' upstairs and I went up there and there was my brother and Chick

McKnight operating on my doll.

DN: Oh!

Rosalie: They got to playin' and operated on my beautiful doll. It had sawdust all over the place. Those days they filled them with saw dust.

DN: Why did they call Ann, Queen Ann?

Rosalie: Why did they call her Queen Ann? Well, I guess she was the first baby that was ever born in Brown's Park and she just was a wonderful person to me. People talk about these Bassetts, what outrageous, but let me tell you, they certainly helped the poor people, they were good to the poor people.

DN: Were they quite well off?

Rosalie: Yes, they had lots of cattle, and in those days it didn't cost so much, you didn't have to pay all this grazing we were just talkin' about and everything like that. They were well off and they had a beautiful big ranch. I don't know where Mr. Bassett got his money, but the old man, Grandpa Bassett, now I don't know. Crawford could tell ya. Crawford McKnight could tell ya a lot more about that than I can. Do you remember Crawford?

DN: I went down and visited with him for a few minutes, but he's been so sick that he can't hardly breathe, you know. He's got fluid on his lungs.

Rosalie: Oh, that's too bad.

DN: So, I didn't stay very long, because he didn't feel like visiting, you know.

Rosalie: Well, Ralph would be. I wonder. I'd like to get with Ralph.

DN: Okay.

Rosalie: Someday.

DN: Could we do that?

Rosalie: Un, huh, 'cause Ralph will remember. I guess, I don't know. I'm older than Ralph. I must have been a grade or so ahead of him; I don't remember that. He remembers all the little things that happened anyway.

DN: Well, maybe we could get together today down at the lunch and figure out when we could get together.

Rosalie: I know that Ralph would be happy to do that. Yes, we got to talking and, you remember this, Rosalie, he'd say, do you remember this? And I said, yes, I remember all about goin' to school down there and skating on the river and all that, you know.

DN: Those are some of the things you did for fun and recreation?

Rosalie: Um huh. Yes, we had skating parties, and we'd go to dances and there was three girls, my youngest sister wasn't old enough at that time to do like myself and my other two sisters. Dad was a funny man. He wouldn't turn us loose with our boyfriends, but our boyfriends would come to our home and tie their horses up there and Daddy would hook the wagon up and take all, boyfriends and all of us, to the dance. Then he'd have a big time, as good a time as we did. My mother wouldn't dance. My mother never learned to dance. She didn't believe in it.

DN: Oh!

Rosalie: Didn't believe in dancing, but Dad did, and he'd take us.

DN: Dance with all the daughters, huh?

Rosalie: Yeah, he'd dance with all of us and our boyfriends, and we were a happy family.

DN: Do you remember Linwood before they put the dam up there?

Rosalie: Oh, yes. Let me show you a little picture.

DN: OK.

Rosalie: I don't believe I showed you that picture when I was 16 years old.

DN: No.

Rosalie: I'm gonna have this blown up. Minnie gave me this. I think I showed it to you, didn't I?

DN: Yes, you did show me this when I was here before.

Rosalie: You picked me out, I think. Didn't you tell me you had some at Thornes'?

DN: Yes.

Rosalie: They hadn't done anything about them yet?

DN: Mike said this morning he's got a few of them done so, as soon as I leave here, I'll go down and see if they got the one I wanted to show you. Was this taken in Linwood?



Rosalie: Yeah; no, not quite in Linwood, it was taken up the mountain. Let's see, Sparks' cabin in Beaver Basin. See, here it's written down. We were up there on a fishing trip and picnic and this lady standing right... No. Now where is she? Now let's see. I have to tell ya, Nell Sparks would be right here. I guess I was taking care of... They asked me to come up and take care of... She was ill and had little children. See this is Nell, and this little girl over here is Lillian. However, they're grown up now and probably got children of their own, or passed away, I don't know. I didn't get to ask Minnie about these two, but I was supposed... That's what got me up there, to take care of these two little children because they were to take her to Rock Springs. She finally died of cancer and they took her again to Rock Springs.

DN: Did you go to Rock Springs for a lot of your supplies and food and stuff like that?

Rosalie: No, we usually came to Vernal when we had our sheep. But we did our business in Rock Springs at the bank for a good many years until we came over here and did business with Mr. Meagher. I used to have to write letters. I'd have to write to the bank. I did all the bookkeeping. I did all the book work and everything for Mr. DeJournette at the time. I still got some of my books here.

DN: Have you?

Rosalie: Um, huh. You had to keep books of your men that worked for ya, you know, and everything, and add it all up. Those were the days we wrote letters and we'd get our mail once a week at Brown's Park and well, we'd go down to the Post Office. After my mother left there, another lady was postmistress and I'd go down there and get my mail.

I'd like to say something here about Mr. Burton, Orson Burton. I married Orson Burton in 1961. I worked, oh, about fourteen, fifteen years down here at the hospital. I nursed down there for a long time and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I wish I could go back and help out, but they wouldn't let me now. I married Orson Burton in 1961. Oh, I had a good married life with him, ten years. Just wonderful, just wonderful. He passed away in '71, so, I sure miss him. He was so good to me.